

REMARKS

This is a simultaneous amendment for the U.S. National Stage application based on PCT/EP 2003/008417.

I. Claims

New claims 8 to 14 have been added and the original claims 1 to 7 of the English translation of the priority document have been canceled.

New claim 8 contains the subject matter of the replacement claim provided with the amended pages of the above-identified PCT application. Otherwise claims 9 to 14 contain substantially the same subject matter as the original claims 2 to 7, but have been put in a form that avoids wording that can lead to a rejection for indefiniteness in U.S. Patent Practice.

II. Abstract

An English language abstract was not provided with the English translation of the priority document. The above abstract was drafted considering U.S. Patent Office Rules for abstracts and includes the subject matter of the main independent claim 8 as well as some information regarding preferred embodiments.

III. Drawing

The original figures 1 to 3 contained labels in a foreign language and fig. 2 was actually three separate figures, which should each have its own figure caption and figure number. Also reference numbers were drawn in free hand.

Proposed replacement figures 1, 2a, 2b, 2c and 3 accompany this application. The German language labels have been changed to English language labels. The reference numbers are now printed digits. Fig. 2 has been divided into three separate figures 2a, 2b and 2c because it contains separate views of an entirely different nature. The proposed figures are larger and easier to read than the original figures.

Examination and approval of the proposed replacement figures is respectfully requested. Formal drawings will be prepared by a patent draftsman when the proposed replacement figures are approved.

IV. Specification

The specification has been amended to conform to the rules of practice in the U.S. Patent Office. Standard section headings recommended by the rules have been added. Logical errors in the translation have been corrected.

The brief description of the drawing and the detailed description have been amended to provide a better description of the figures and because of the division of fig. 2 into three figures 2a, 2b and 2c above. No new matter has been added.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Striker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael J. Striker,
Attorney for the Applicants

Reg. No. 27,233